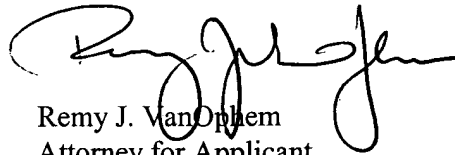


requested that an examination be conducted on Claims 1-13 and 15-18. It is respectfully believed that the claims as currently in the application are patentably distinct from any prior art of record.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter of record, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (586) 739-7445.

Respectfully submitted,

VANOPHEM & VANOPHEM, P.C.



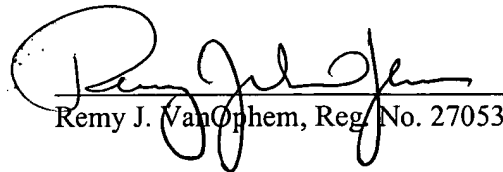
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Certificate under 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 10, 2004.

Date: March 10, 2004



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